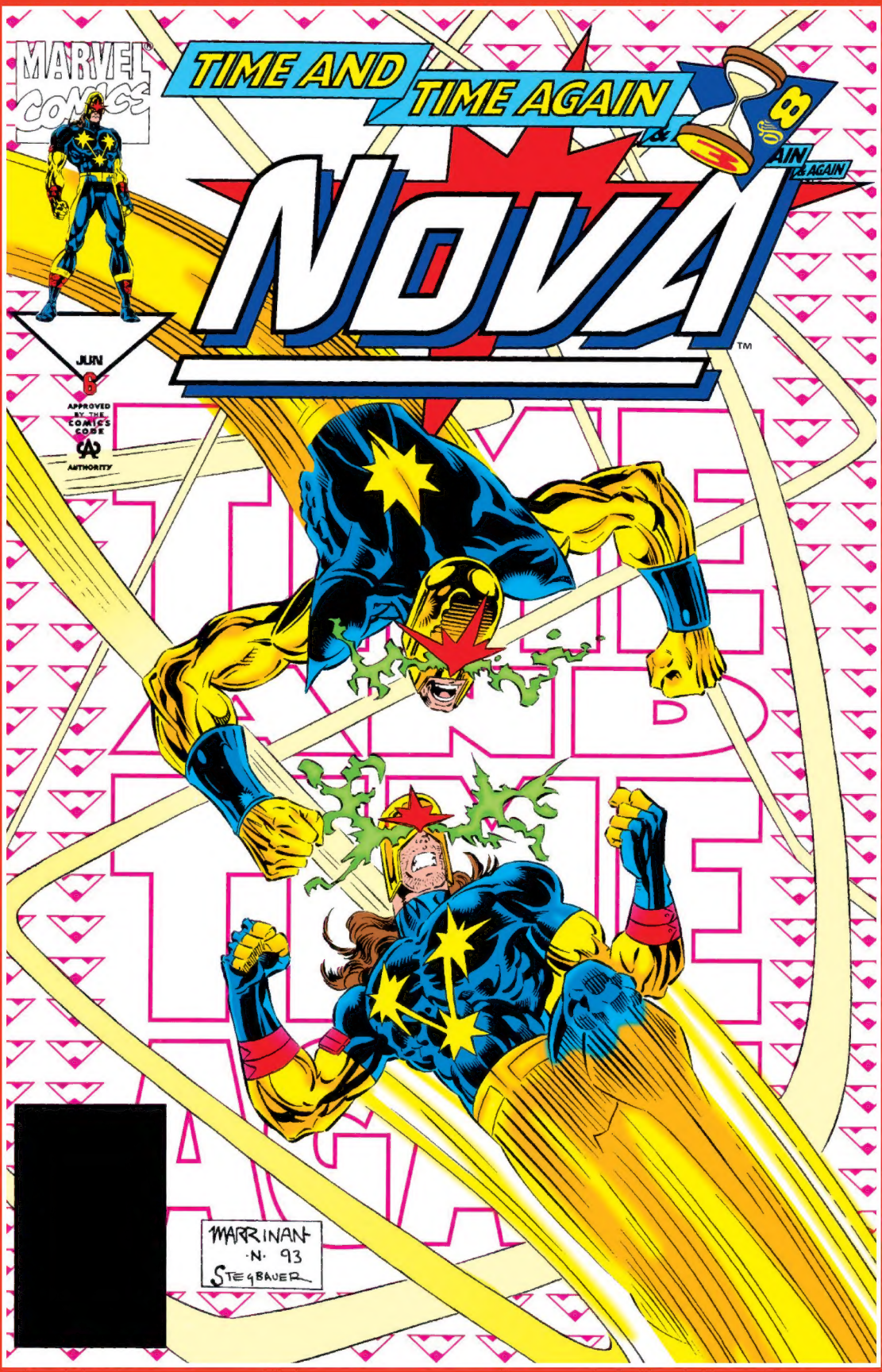
MARVEL COMICS
TIME AND TIME AGAIN
NOVA
JUN
6
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARRINAN
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STEGBAUER

THE STORY SO FAR: The battle for power between the SPHINXES, two immortal beings who seek sole control of the universal force known only as the energy of the KA, has begun. The first casualties--the young super hero team known as the New Warriors--who have been unceremoniously separated and tossed through time!

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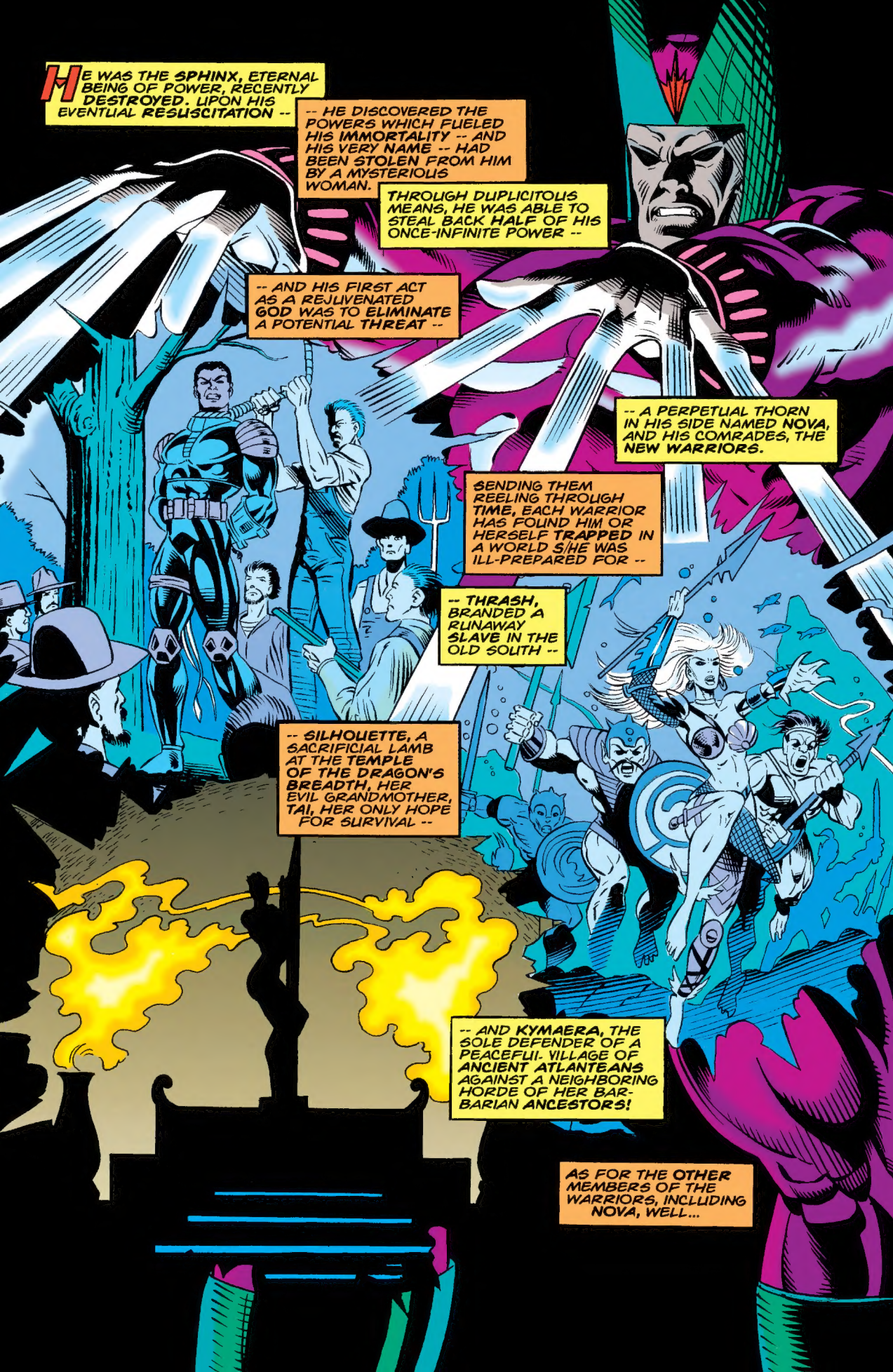
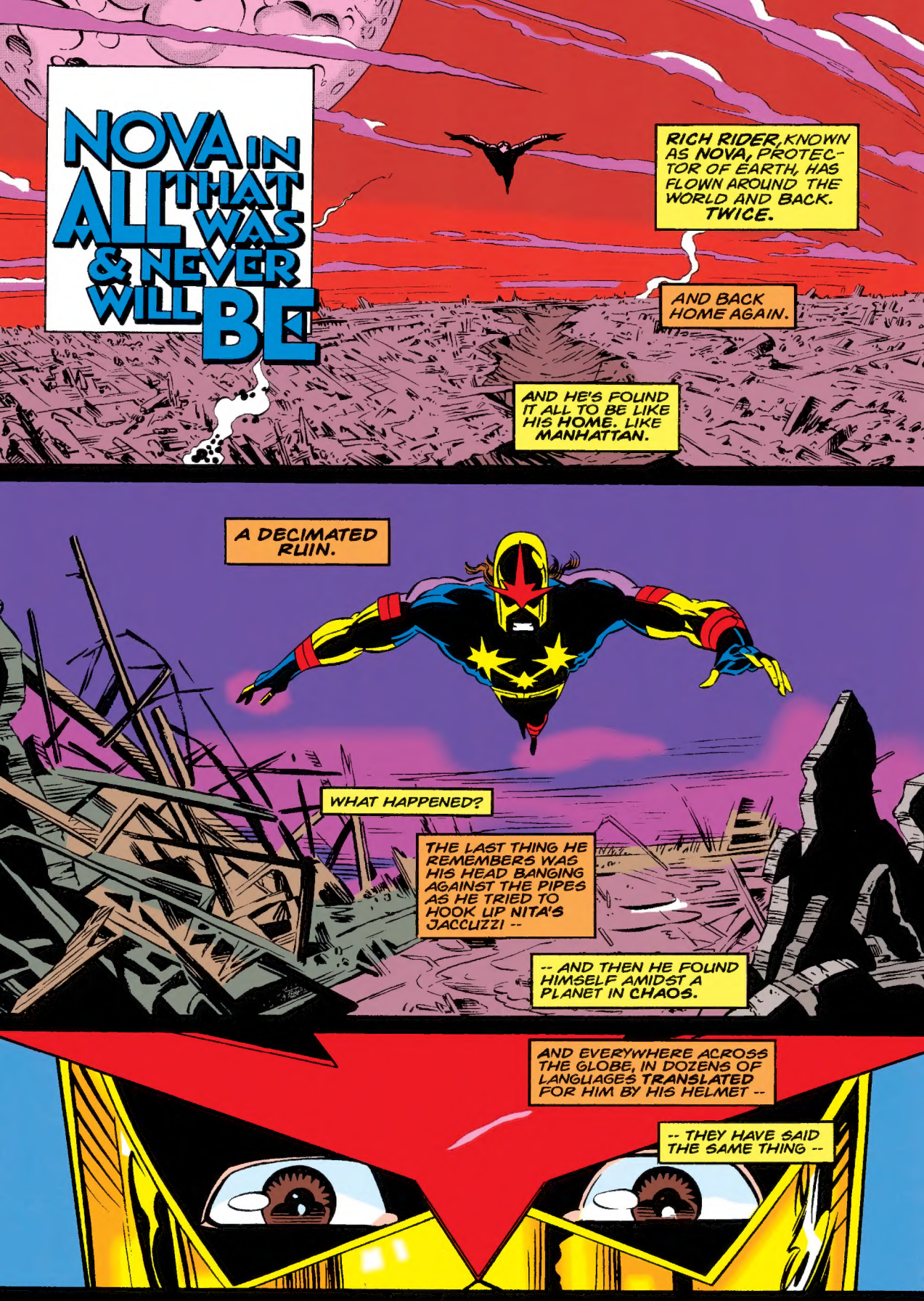
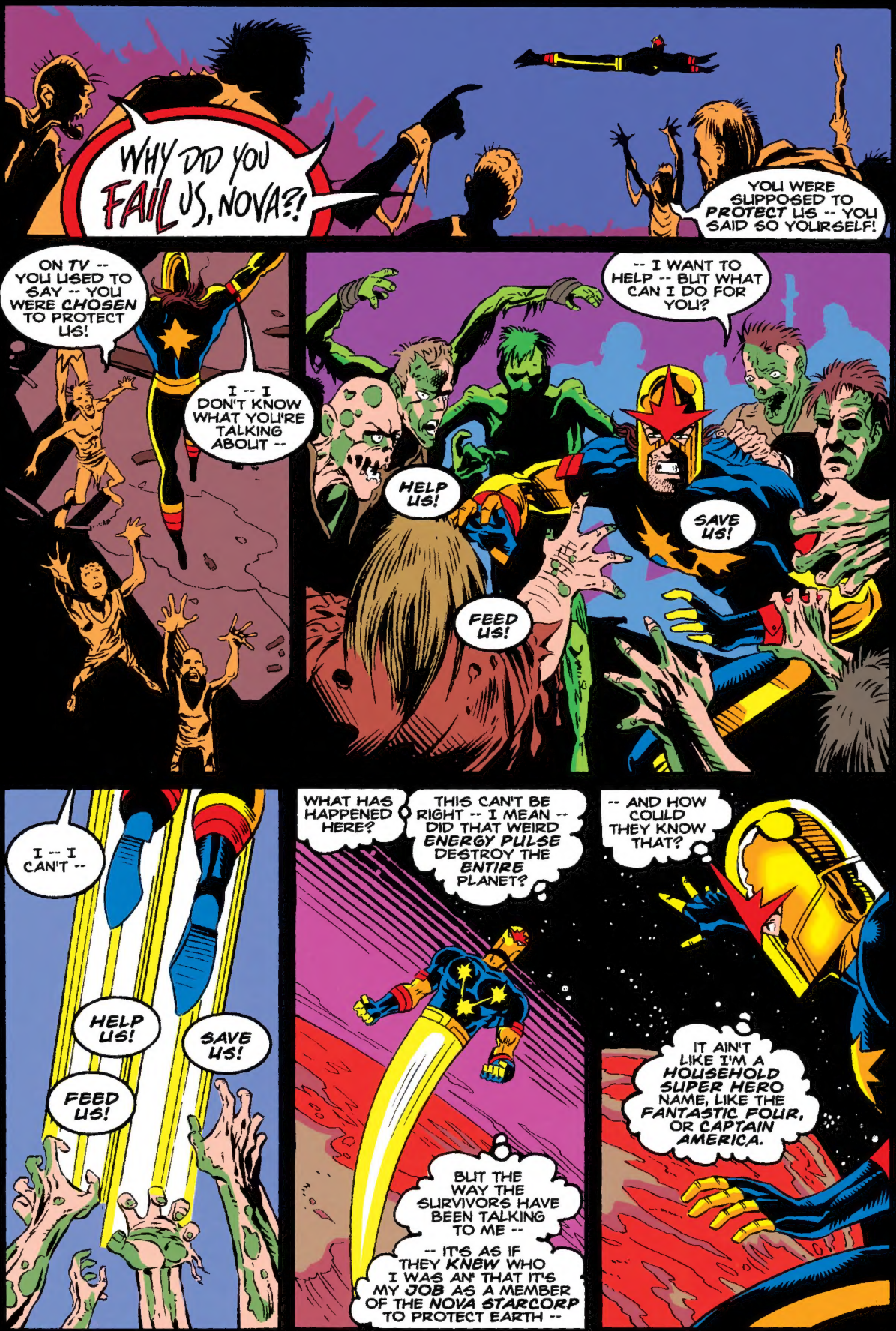
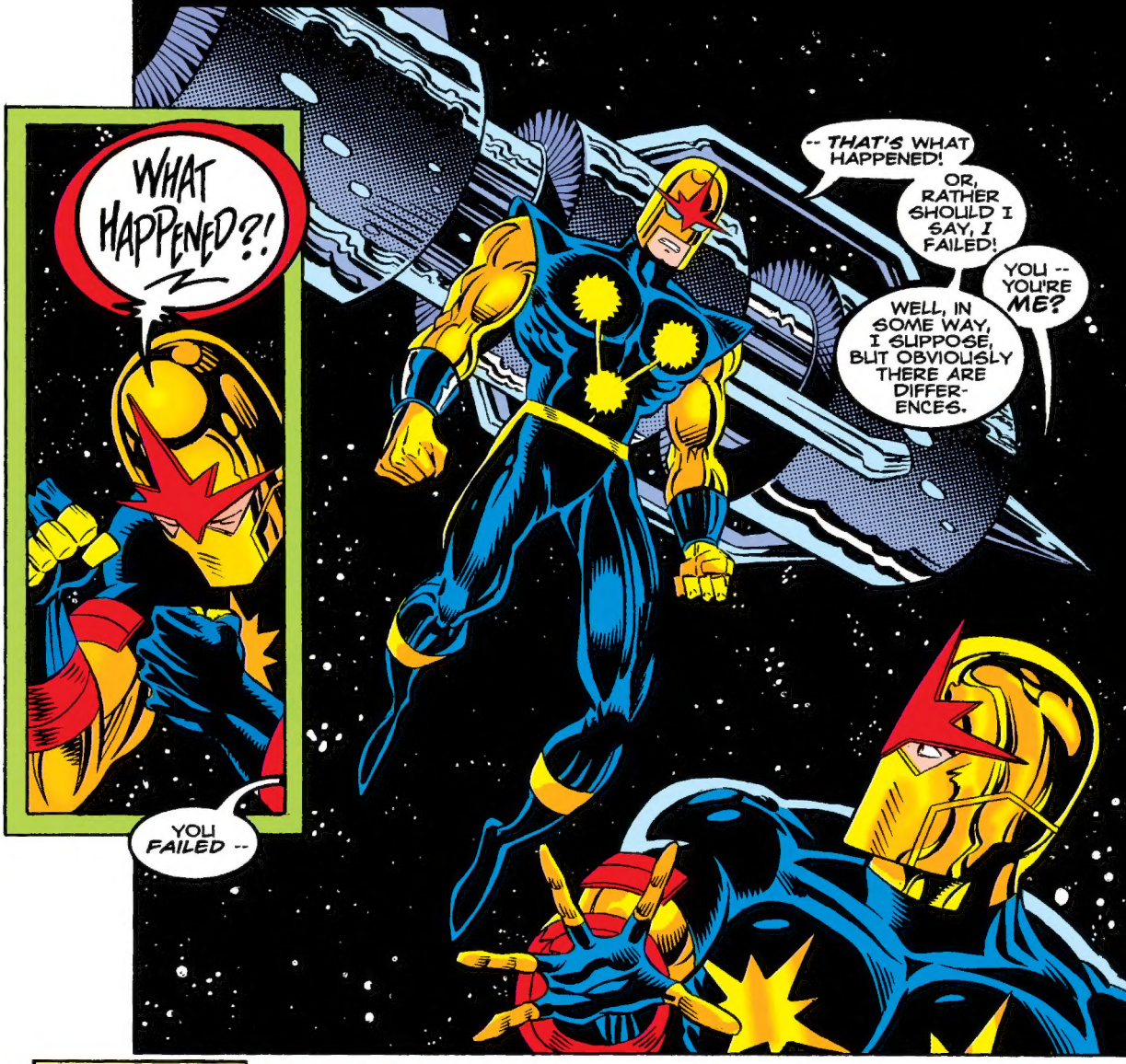
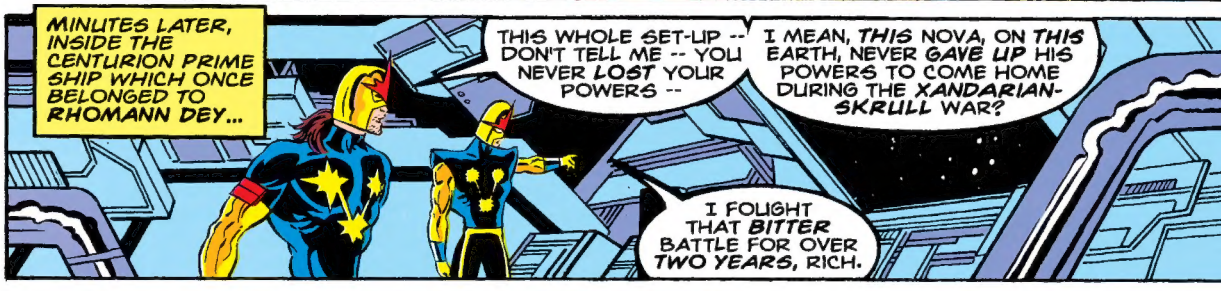
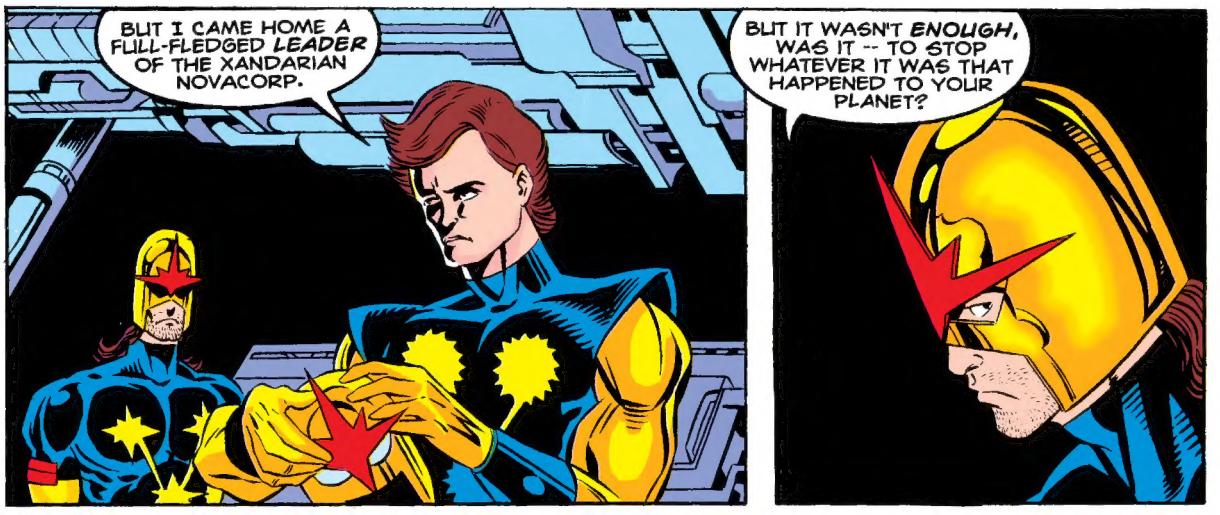

HE WAS THE SPHINX, ETERNAL BEING OF POWER, RECENTLY DESTROYED. UPON HIS EVENTUAL RESUSCITATION --
-- HE DISCOVERED THE POWERS WHICH FUELED HIS IMMORTALITY -- AND HIS VERY NAME -- HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM HIM BY A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN.
THROUGH DUPLICITOUS MEANS, HE WAS ABLE TO STEAL BACK HALF OF HIS ONCE-INFINITE POWER --
-- AND HIS FIRST ACT AS A REJUVENATED GOD WAS TO ELIMINATE A POTENTIAL THREAT --
-- A PERPETUAL THORN IN HIS SIDE NAMED NOVA, AND HIS COMRADES, THE NEW WARRIORS.
SENDING THEM REELING THROUGH TIME, EACH WARRIOR HAS FOUND HIM OR HERSELF TRAPPED IN A WORLD S/HE WAS ILL-PREPARED FOR --
-- THRASH, BRANDED A RUNAWAY SLAVE IN THE OLD SOUTH --
-- SILHOUETTE, A SACRIFICIAL LAMB AT THE TEMPLE OF THE DRAGON'S BREADTH, HER EVIL GRANDMOTHER, TAI, HER ONLY HOPE FOR SURVIVAL --
-- AND KYMAERA, THE SOLE DEFENDER OF A PEACEFUL VILLAGE OF ANCIENT ATLANTEANS AGAINST A NEIGHBORING HORDE OF HER BARBARIAN ANCESTORS!
AS FOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE WARRIORS, INCLUDING NOVA, WELL...

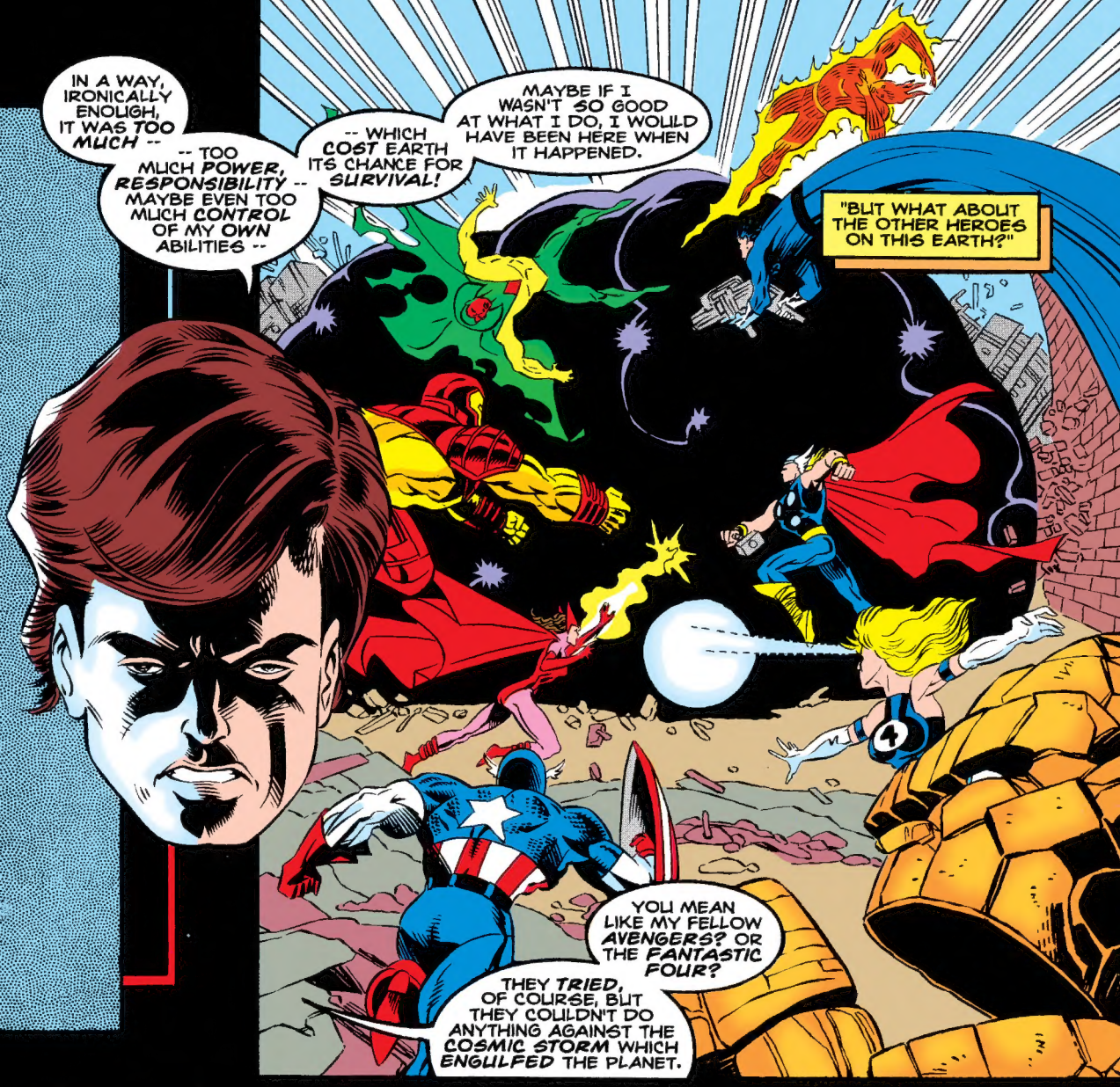

NOVA IN ALL THAT WAS & NEVER WILL BE
RICH RIDER, KNOWN AS NOVA, PROTECTOR OF EARTH, HAS FLOWN AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK. TWICE.
AND BACK HOME AGAIN.
AND HE'S FOUND IT ALL TO BE LIKE HIS HOME. LIKE MANHATTAN.
A DECIMATED RUIN.
WHAT HAPPENED?
THE LAST THING HE REMEMBERS WAS HIS HEAD BANGING AGAINST THE PIPES AS HE TRIED TO HOOK UP NITA'S JACCUZZI --
-- AND THEN HE FOUND HIMSELF AMIDST A PLANET IN CHAOS.
AND EVERYWHERE ACROSS THE GLOBE, IN DOZENS OF LANGUAGES TRANSLATED FOR HIM BY HIS HELMET --
-- THEY HAVE SAID THE SAME THING --


WHY DID YOU FAIL US, NOVA?!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT US -- YOU SAID SO YOURSELF!
ON TV -- YOU USED TO SAY -- YOU WERE CHOSEN TO PROTECT US!
I -- I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT --
-- I WANT TO HELP -- BUT WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU!?
HELP US!
SAVE US!
FEED US!
I -- I CAN'T --
HELP US!
SAVE US!
FEED US!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?
THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT -- I MEAN -- DID THAT WEIRD ENERGY PULSE DESTROY THE ENTIRE PLANET?
BUT THE WAY THE SURVIVORS HAVE BEEN TALKING TO ME --
-- IT'S AS IF THEY KNEW WHO I WAS AN' THAT IT'S MY JOB AS A MEMBER OF THE NOVA STARCORP TO PROTECT EARTH --
-- AND HOW COULD THEY KNOW THAT?
IT AIN'T LIKE I'M A HOUSEHOLD SUPER HERO NAME, LIKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR, OR CAPTAIN AMERICA.


WHAT HAPPENED?!
YOU FAILED --
-- THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!
OR, RATHER SHOULD I SAY, I FAILED!
YOU -- YOU'RE ME?
WELL, IN SOME WAY, I SUPPOSE, BUT OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE DIFFER-ENCES.


MINUTES LATER, INSIDE THE CENTURION PRIME SHIP WHICH ONCE BELONGED TO RHOMANN DEY...
THIS WHOLE SET-UP -- DON'T TELL ME -- YOU NEVER LOST YOUR POWERS --
I MEAN, THIS NOVA, ON THIS EARTH, NEVER GAVE UP HIS POWERS TO COME HOME DURING THE XANDARIAN-SKRULL WAR?
I FOUGHT THAT BITTER BATTLE FOR OVER TWO YEARS, RICH.

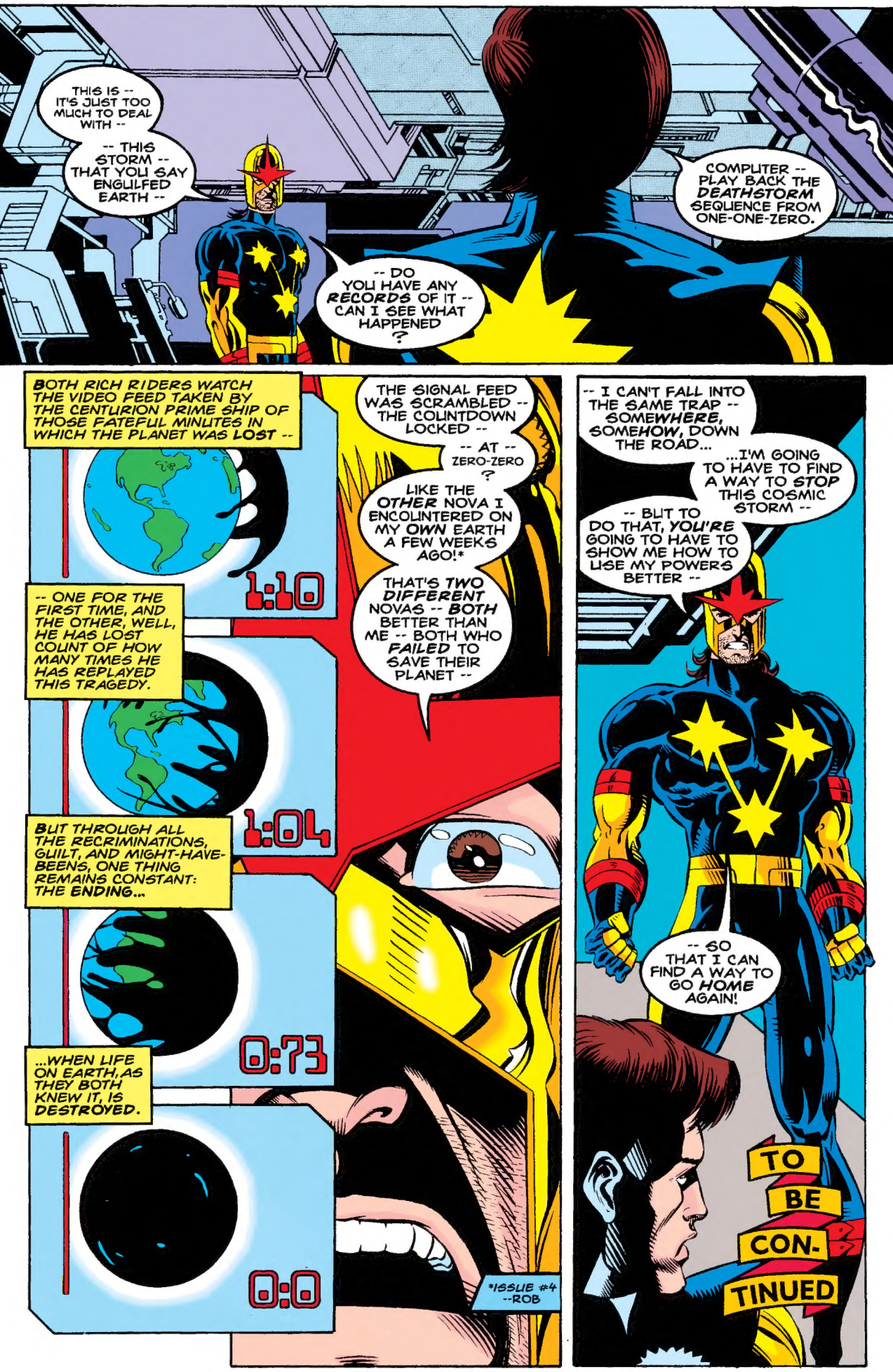

BUT I CAME HOME A FULL-FLEDGED LEADER OF THE XANDARIAN NOVACORP.
BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH, WAS IT -- TO STOP WHATEVER IT WAS THAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PLANET?


IN A WAY, IRONICALLY ENOUGH, IT WAS TOO MUCH --
-- TOO MUCH POWER, RESPONSIBILITY -- MAYBE EVEN TOO MUCH CONTROL OF MY OWN ABILITIES --
-- WHICH COST EARTH ITS CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL!
MAYBE IF I WASN'T SO GOOD AT WHAT I DO, I WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE WHEN IT HAPPENED.
"BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER HEROES ON THIS EARTH?"
YOU MEAN LIKE MY FELLOW AVENGERS? OR THE FANTASTIC FOUR?
THEY TRIED, OF COURSE, BUT THEY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING AGAINST THE COSMIC STORM WHICH ENGULFED THE PLANET.

YOUR "FELLOW AVENGERS"?
-> PHEW <-
WHAT HAPPENED, RICH -- WHY WEREN'T YOU HERE?

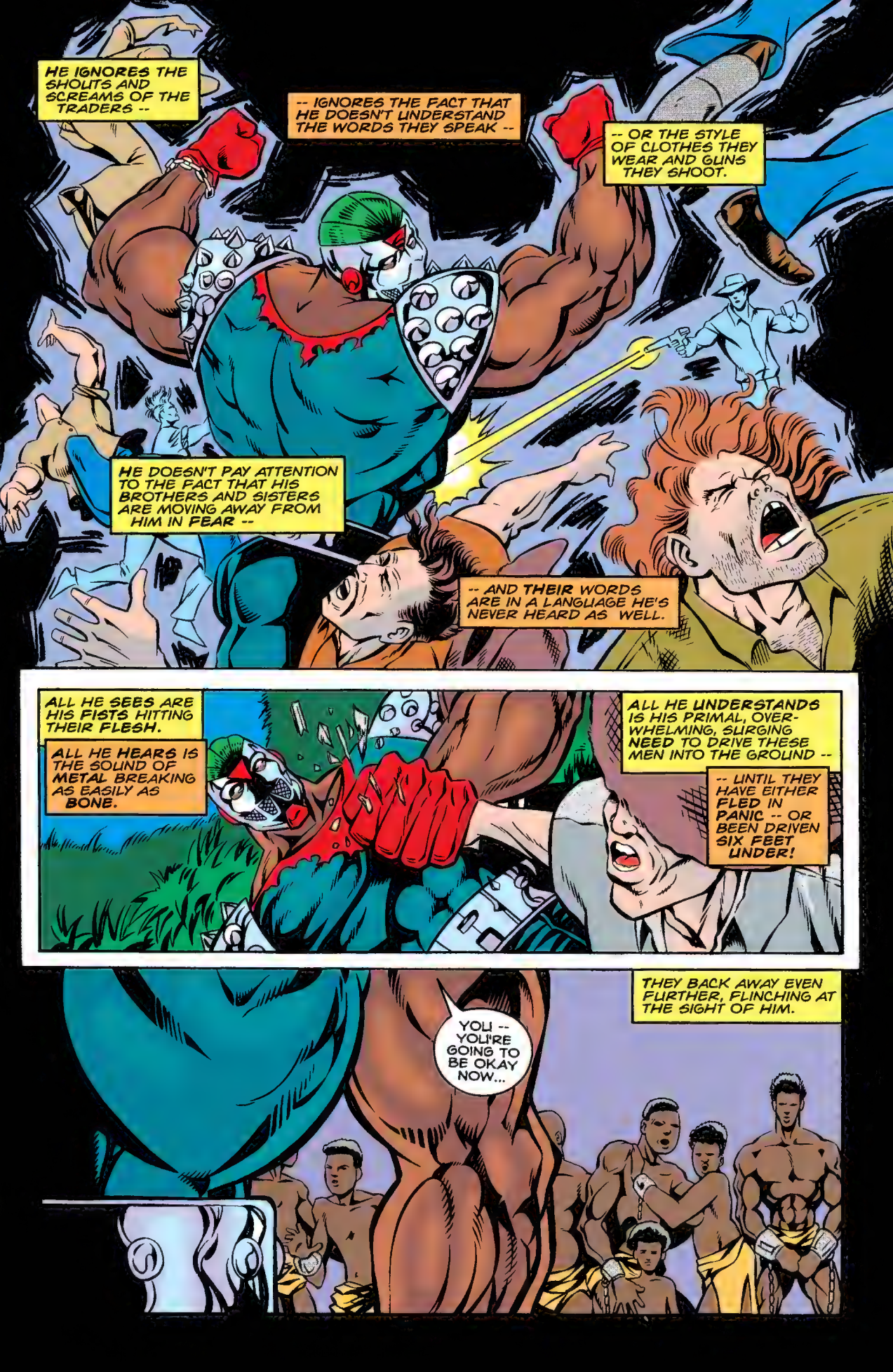
I WAS IN SHI'AR SPACE... QUEEN ADORA AND EMPRESS LILANDRA WERE HAVING SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE KREE.
I WAS ONLY THERE FOR A FEW WEEKS...BUT IT WAS LONG ENOUGH...

...BY THE TIME I GOT BACK, IT WAS ALL OVER.
THE STORM SWEPT THROUGH OUR SOLAR SYSTEM IN DAYS.
EARTH -- AND NINETY PERCENT OF ITS PEOPLE -- WERE DEAD IN MINUTES.
EVERYONE -- MOM, DAD, ROBBIE, GINGER...EVERYONE.
WHAT ABOUT -- THE WARRIORS?
THE WHO?
ON THIS WORLD... IF YOU NEVER LOST YOUR POWERS... YOU NEVER FOUND THEM AGAIN ...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
"ON MY WORLD, I GAVE UP MY POWERS -- A GUY NAMED NIGHT THRASHER HELPED SHOW ME THEY WERE ALWAYS INSIDE OF ME...
"...WE FORMED A GROUP OF YOUNG HEROES -- FRIENDS -- FAMILY, REALLY -- CALLED THE NEW WARRIORS."
INTERESTING VARIATION YOUR EARTH HAS BECOME.
ON MY WORLD, I APPREHENDED A VIGILANTE NAMED NIGHT THRASHER --
-- AND HE WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR THE MURDERS OF DOZENS OF ALLEGED CRIMINALS.
HE WAS KILLED IN PRISON BY FELLOW INMATES MONTHS BEFORE THE BLACK STORM WOULD HAVE DONE IT TO HIM ANYWAY.


THIS IS -- IT'S JUST TOO MUCH TO DEAL WITH --
-- THIS STORM -- THAT YOU SAY ENGULFED EARTH --
-- DO YOU HAVE ANY RECORDS OF IT -- CAN I SEE WHAT HAPPENED ?
COMPUTER -- PLAY BACK THE DEATHSTORM SEQUENCE FROM ONE-ONE-ZERO.
BOTH RICH RIDERS WATCH THE VIDEO FEED TAKEN BY THE CENTURION PRIME SHIP OF THOSE FATEFUL MINUTES IN WHICH THE PLANET WAS LOST --
1:10
-- ONE FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND THE OTHER, WELL, HE HAS LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES HE HAS REPLAYED THIS TRAGEDY.
1:04
BUT THROUGH ALL THE RECRIMINATIONS, GUILT, AND MIGHT-HAVE-BEENS, ONE THING REMAINS CONSTANT: THE ENDING...
0:73
...WHEN LIFE ON EARTH, AS THEY BOTH KNEW IT, IS DESTROYED.
0:0
THE SIGNAL FEED WAS SCRAMBLED -- THE COUNTDOWN LOCKED --
-- AT -- ZERO-ZERO ?
LIKE THE OTHER NOVA I ENCOUNTERED ON MY OWN EARTH A FEW WEEKS AGO!*
THAT'S TWO DIFFERENT NOVAS -- BOTH BETTER THAN ME -- BOTH WHO FAILED TO SAVE THEIR PLANET --
*ISSUE #4 --ROB
-- I CAN'T FALL INTO THE SAME TRAP -- SOMEWHERE, SOMEHOW, DOWN THE ROAD...
...I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THIS COSMIC STORM --
-- BUT TO DO THAT, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SHOW ME HOW TO USE MY POWERS BETTER --
-- SO THAT I CAN FIND A WAY TO GO HOME AGAIN!
TO BE CON-TINUED

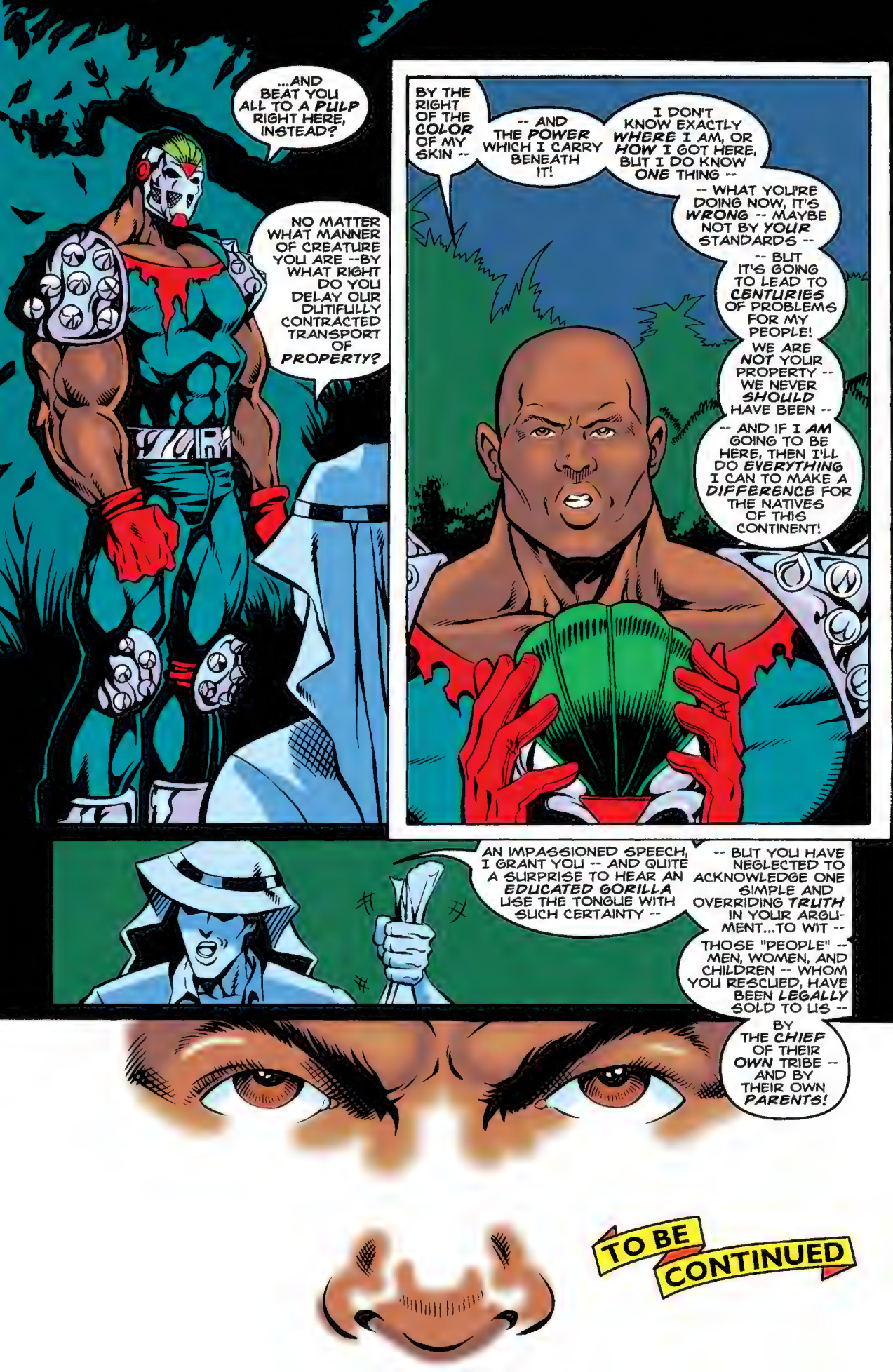
ORIGINAL SIN
THE WHIP CRACKS AGAIN.
THEY BARELY EVEN MAKE A SOUND AS IT SLICES ACROSS THEIR BACKS.
AS IF THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THE RIGHT OF THE WHITE MEN TO BEAT THEM DOWN.
AS IF THEY ACCEPT THEIR FATE.
AS IF THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ANY OF THIS.
AS IF, AFTER WATCHING THIS FOR THE LAST DAY WITH CONFUSION AND MOUNTING ANGER --
-- ELVIN HALIDAY, THE BURNING ENGINE OF DESTRUCTION FUELED BY RAGE --

-- WOULD ALLOW THESE SLAVE TRADERS TO CONTINUE ABUSING HIS PEOPLE.
AS IF!
THAT --
-- IS --
ENOUGH!!


HE IGNORES THE SHOUTS AND SCREAMS OF THE TRADERS --
-- IGNORES THE FACT THAT HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE WORDS THEY SPEAK --
-- OR THE STYLE OF CLOTHES THEY WEAR AND GUNS THEY SHOOT.
HE DOESN'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE MOVING AWAY FROM HIM IN FEAR --
-- AND THEIR WORDS ARE IN A LANGUAGE HE'S NEVER HEARD AS WELL.
ALL HE SEES ARE HIS FISTS HITTING THEIR FLESH.
ALL HE HEARS IS THE SOUND OF METAL BREAKING AS EASILY AS BONE.
ALL HE UNDERSTANDS IS HIS PRIMAL, OVERWHELMING, SURGING NEED TO DRIVE THESE MEN INTO THE GROUND --
-- UNTIL THEY HAVE EITHER FLED IN PANIC -- OR BEEN DRIVEN SIX FEET UNDER!
THEY BACK AWAY EVEN FURTHER, FLINCHING AT THE SIGHT OF HIM.
YOU! -- YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY NOW...

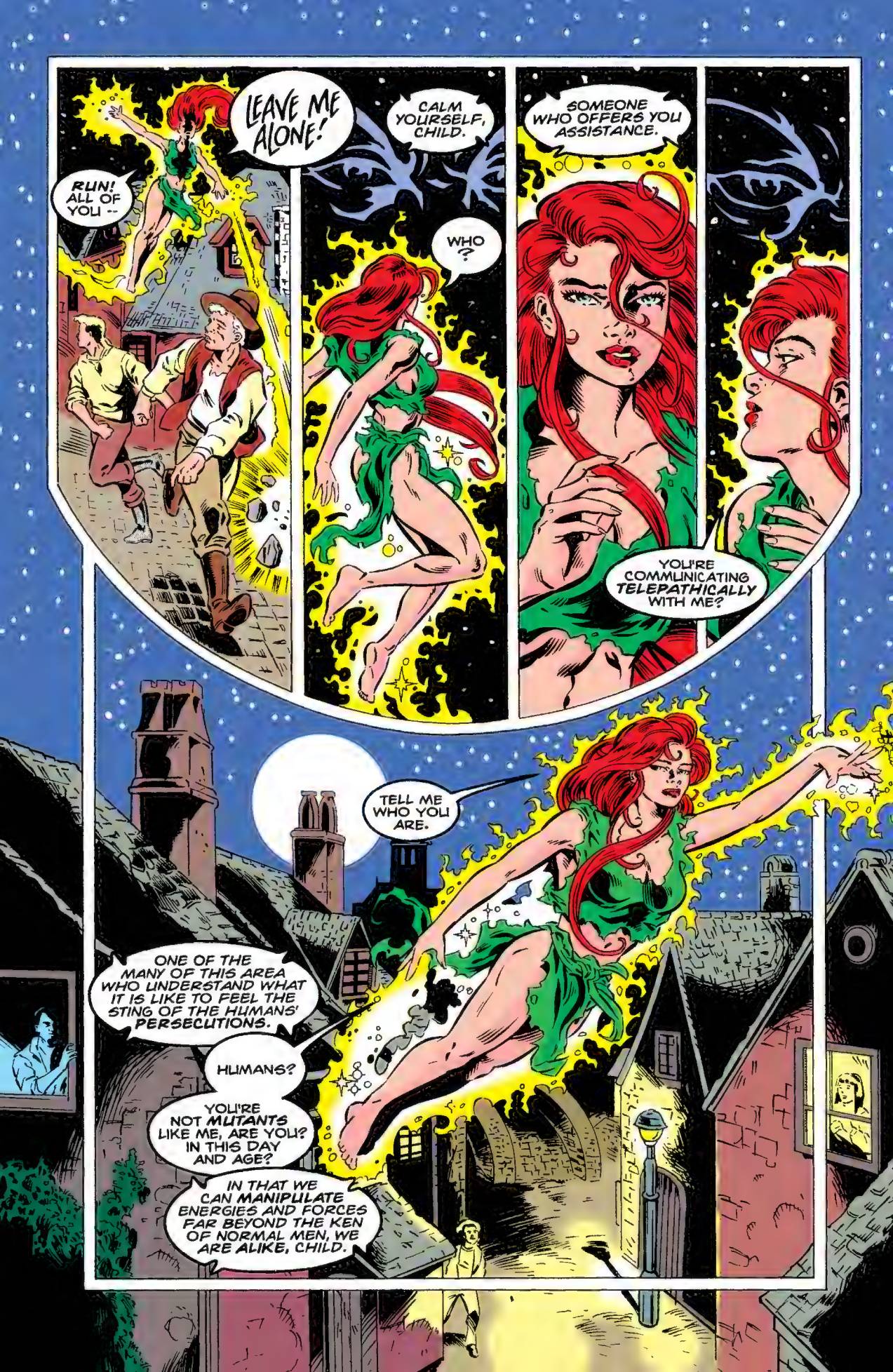
HE TERRIFIES THEM.
AND NORMALLY, HE WOULDN'T MIND THAT, SINCE LATELY HE'S BEEN TERRIFYING HIMSELF AS WELL.
BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT.
THESE ARE PEOPLE HE WANTS TO HELP, NOT HURT.
SNAPPT
WHY, THEN, DON'T THEY SEEM TO WANT TO HELP THEMSELVES?
AS THEY REALIZE HE'S NOT GOING TO ATTACK THEM --
--THEY QUICKLY RUN AWAY, SOON LOST IN THE THICK JUNGLE OVERGROWTH.
BUT WERE THEY RUNNING TO SOMETHING --
-- OR MERELY FROM HIM?
HE DOESN'T BELONG HERE, AND HE KNOWS IN HIS COLD IRON GUT THAT HE'S BEEN SENT TO A WORLD -- TO A TIME --
-- WHERE HIS ANGER, HIS PASSION, HIS STRENGTH --
-- MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE WAY THAT THIS WORLD WORKS.

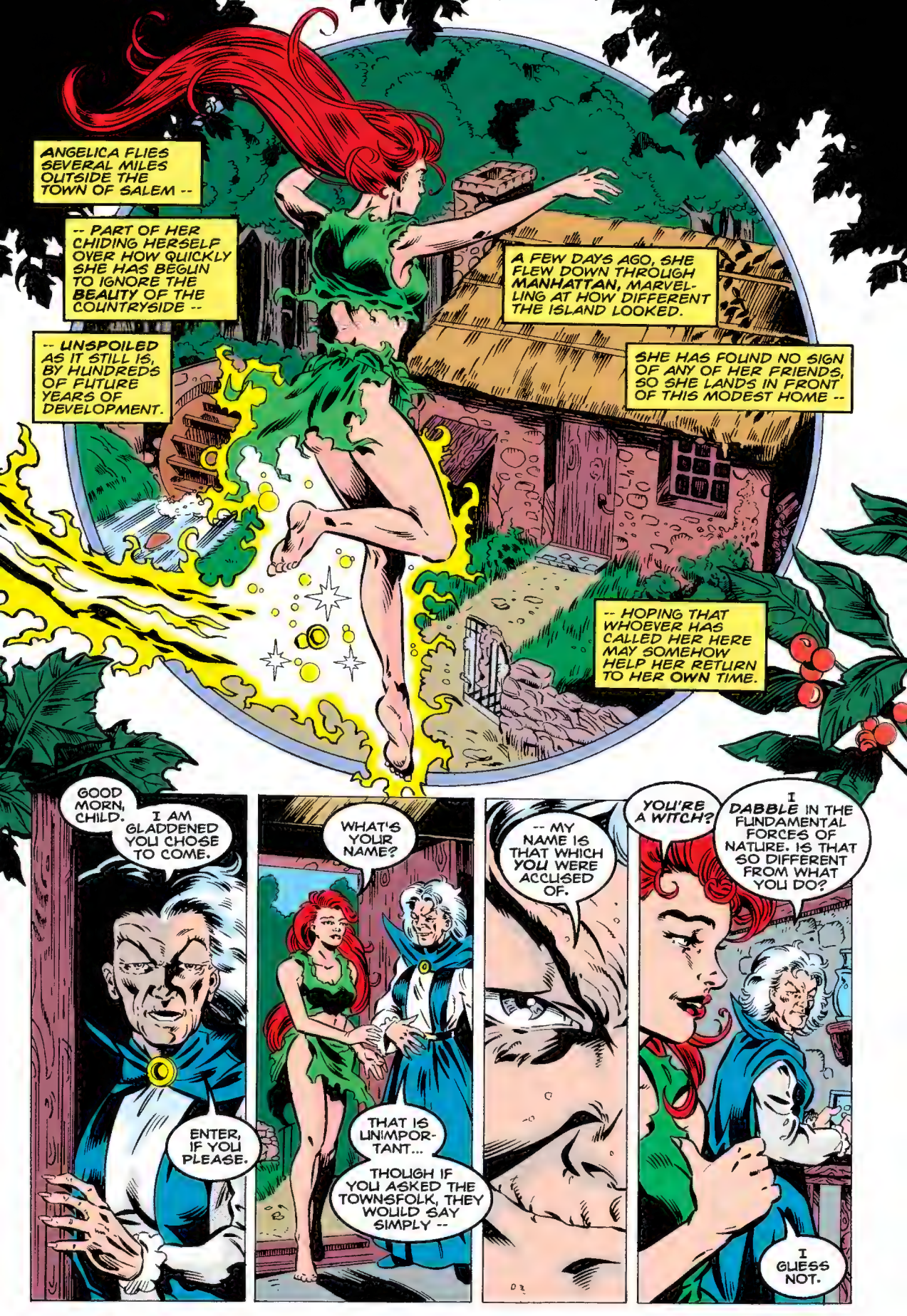
BUT WHEN HAS THE HARD SLAP OF REALITY EVER STOPPED A WARRIOR FROM SPITTING INTO THE WIND?
AS NIGHT FALLS AND A BRIGHT MOON HANGS OVER A SKY FILLED WITH MORE STARS THAN ELVIN HAS EVER SEEN --
-- THE SLAVE TRADERS REGROUP AT THEIR CAMPSITE AT A SMALL COVE ALONG THE NORTH AFRICAN COASTLINE.
YOU'RE CERTAIN OF THIS, JOHANN?
AS SURELY AS I SEE YOU BOTH BEFORE MY EYES, CAPTAIN. A BEHEMOTH, HALF AGAIN AS TALL AS I --
-- AND WIDER THAN THREE MEN --
-- WEARING STRANGE CLOTHING MADE OF ODD FABRICS AND ACTUAL MOLDED IRONWORKS.
AND YOU SAY HE SPOKE ENGLISH?
NOT YOUR KING'S OWN, MASTER FEDDERS --
-- BUT IT WAS ENGLISH INDEED IT SPAKE IN THE ONE GLITTERAL LITTERANCE I HEARD RUMBLE FROM ITS STEELY MOUTH.
WELL, THEN, FEDDERS, IT WOULD APPEAR WE SHALL HAVE TO FLUSH THIS MISCREANT OUT OF THE JUNGLE --
-- AND TEACH IT NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE PROPER DUTIES OF MERCHANTS IN GOOD STANDING FROM ENGLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS!
HOW ABOUT IF I SAVE YOU ALL THE TROUBLE...

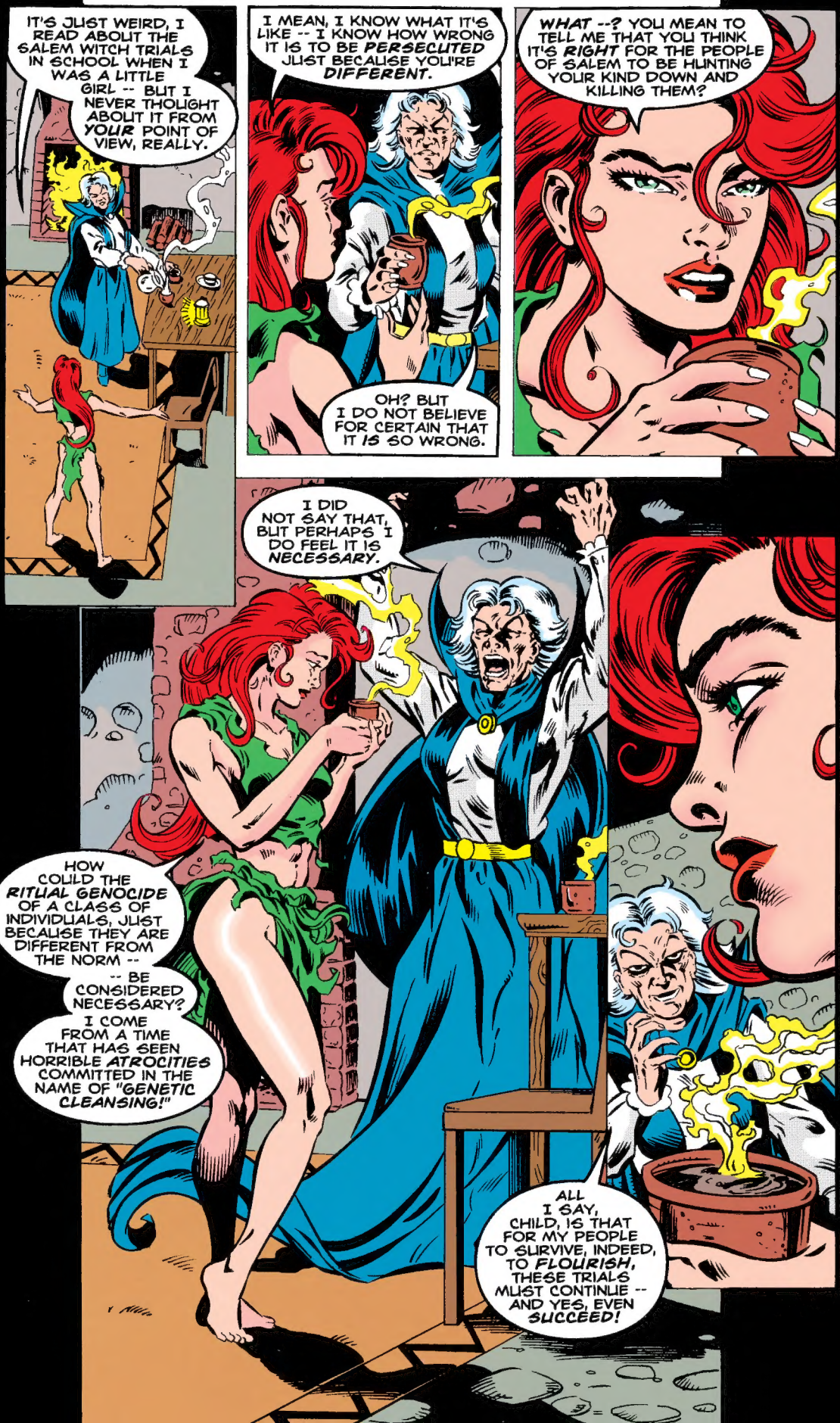

...AND BEAT YOU ALL TO A PULP RIGHT HERE, INSTEAD?
NO MATTER WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE YOU ARE --BY WHAT RIGHT DO YOU DELAY OUR DUTIFULLY CONTRACTED TRANSPORT OF PROPERTY?
BY THE RIGHT OF THE COLOR OF MY SKIN --
-- AND THE POWER WHICH I CARRY BENEATH IT!
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I AM, OR HOW I GOT HERE, BUT I DO KNOW ONE THING --
-- WHAT YOU'RE DOING NOW, IT'S WRONG -- MAYBE NOT BY YOUR STANDARDS --
-- BUT IT'S GOING TO LEAD TO CENTURIES OF PROBLEMS FOR MY PEOPLE!
WE ARE NOT YOUR PROPERTY -- WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN --
-- AND IF I AM GOING TO BE HERE, THEN I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE NATIVES OF THIS CONTINENT!
AN IMPASSIONED SPEECH, I GRANT YOU -- AND QUITE A SURPRISE TO HEAR AN EDUCATED GORILLA USE THE TONGUE WITH SUCH CERTAINTY --
-- BUT YOU HAVE NEGLECTED TO ACKNOWLEDGE ONE SIMPLE AND OVERRIDING TRUTH IN YOUR ARGUMENT...TO WIT --
THOSE "PEOPLE" -- MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN -- WHOM YOU RESCUED, HAVE BEEN LEGALLY SOLD TO US --
BY THE CHIEF OF THEIR OWN TRIBE -- AND BY THEIR OWN PARENTS!
TO BE CONTINUED

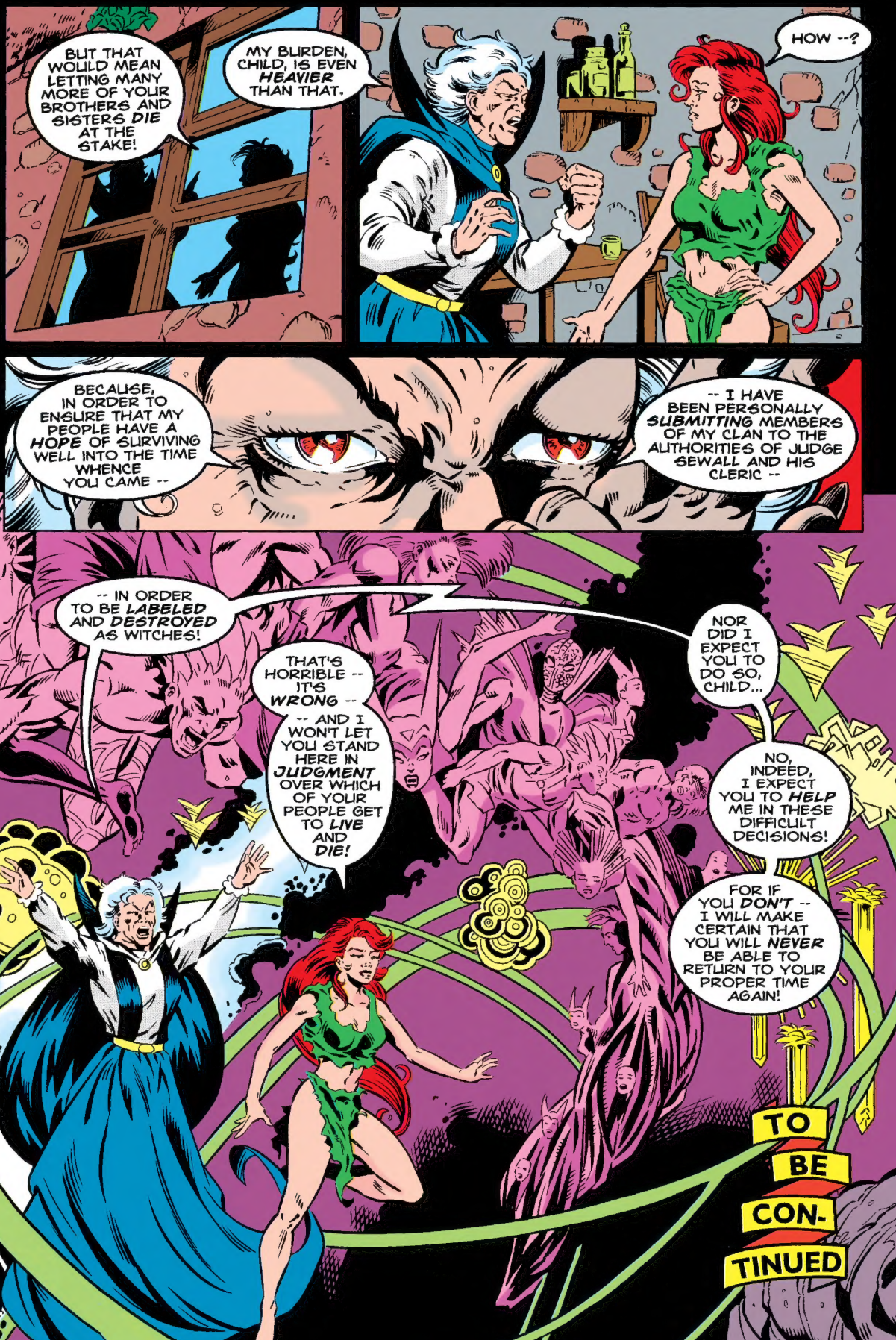
STAN LEE PRESENTS FIRESTAR IN
WITCH HUNT
1692. SALEM, MASSACHUSSETS.
TAKE HER TO SAMUEL SEWALL. HE WILL JUDGE HER RIGHTLY!
THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT!
WE SAW WHAT THE CHILD DID!
BURN, WITCH --
--BURN!
SHE FLEW, WITH FIRE IN HER EYES AND THE DEVIL IN HER HEART!

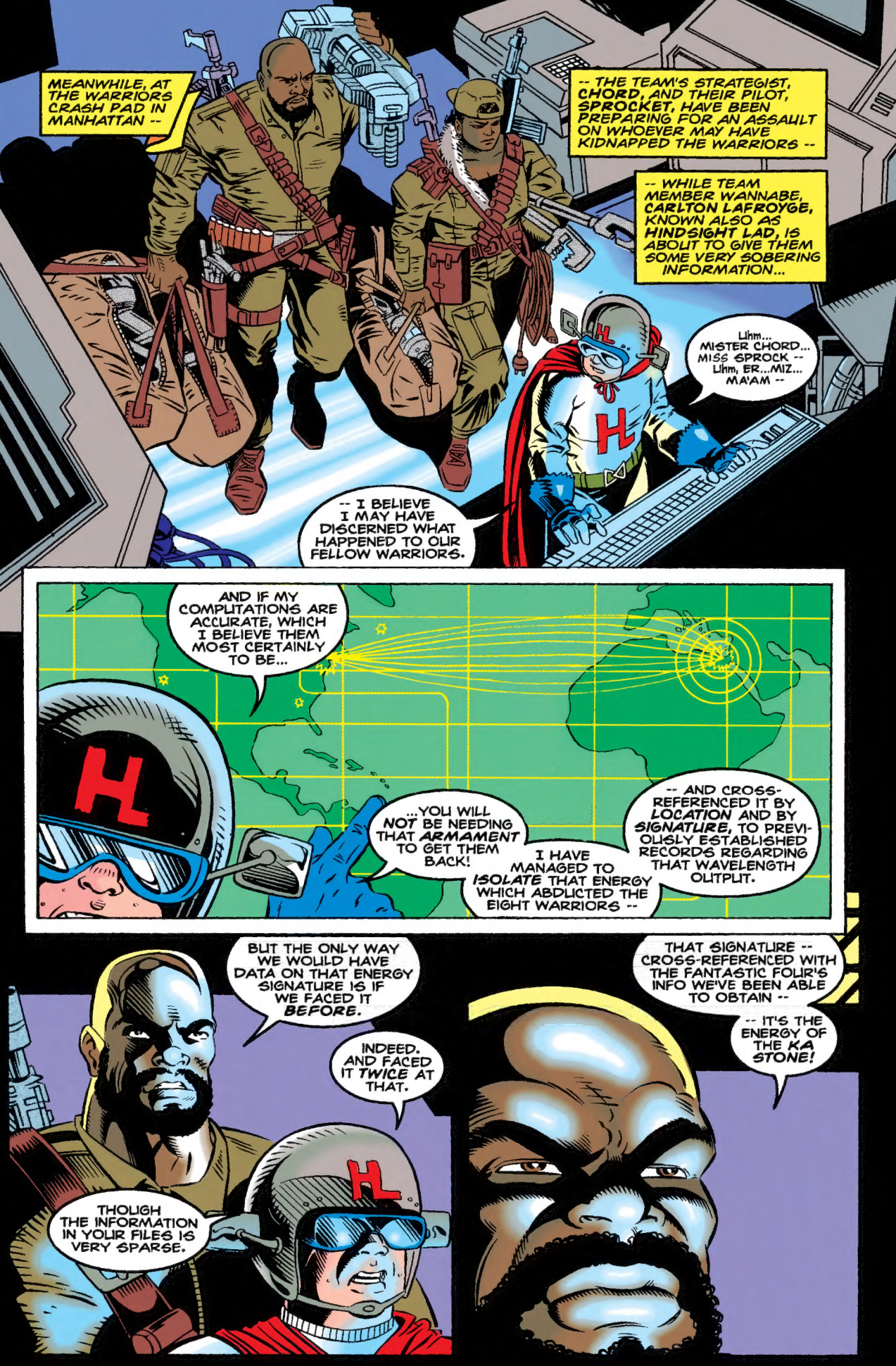
GOD ALMIGHTY...
YOU HAVE THE NERVE TO PRAY?!
I WAS WAITING, HOPING YOU WOULDN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT --
-- BUT YOU WERE WILLING TO BURN ME ALIVE JUST BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT I WAS A WITCH?
JUST BECAUSE I'M DIFFERENT?
AND YOU STILL HAVE THE NERVE TO ASK GOD FOR HELP?
THE YOUNG GIRL NAMED ANGELICA JONES, WHO, HUNDREDS OF YEARS FROM NOW WILL BE KNOWN AS FIRESTAR --
-- FEELS THE FRUSTRATION, THE UNCERTAINTY, THE ANGER OF THE LAST THREE WEEKS BUILDING UP INSIDE HER, CRYING FOR RELEASE --
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING, THOUGH...
...I AM POWERFUL --
-- AND I CAN SHOW YOU JUST HOW POWERFUL MY MICROWAVE EMISSIONS CAN BE!


LEAVE ME ALONE!
RUN! ALL OF YOU --
CALM YOURSELF, CHILD.
WHO?
SOMEONE WHO OFFERS YOU ASSISTANCE.
YOU'RE COMMUNICATING TELEPATHICALLY WITH ME?
TELL ME WHO YOU ARE.
ONE OF THE MANY OF THIS AREA WHO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS LIKE TO FEEL THE STING OF THE HUMANS' PERSECUTIONS.
HUMANS?
YOU'RE NOT MUTANTS LIKE ME, ARE YOU? IN THIS DAY AND AGE?
IN THAT WE CAN MANIPULATE ENERGIES AND FORCES FAR BEYOND THE KEN OF NORMAL MEN, WE ARE ALIKE, CHILD.


ANGELICA FLIES SEVERAL MILES OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF SALEM --
-- PART OF HER CHIDING HERSELF OVER HOW QUICKLY SHE HAS BEGUN TO IGNORE THE BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE --
-- UNSPOILED AS IT STILL IS, BY HUNDREDS OF FUTURE YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT.
A FEW DAYS AGO, SHE FLEW DOWN THROUGH MANHATTAN, MARVELLING AT HOW DIFFERENT THE ISLAND LOOKED.
SHE HAS FOUND NO SIGN OF ANY OF HER FRIENDS, SO SHE LANDS IN FRONT OF THIS MODEST HOME --
-- HOPING THAT WHOEVER HAS CALLED HER HERE MAY SOMEHOW HELP HER RETURN TO HER OWN TIME.
GOOD MORN, CHILD.
I AM GLADDENED YOU CHOSE TO COME.
ENTER, IF YOU PLEASE.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
THAT IS UNIMPORTANT...
THOUGH IF YOU ASKED THE TOWNSFOLK, THEY WOULD SAY SIMPLY --
-- MY NAME IS THAT WHICH YOU WERE ACCUSED OF.
YOU'RE A WITCH?
I DABBLE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL FORCES OF NATURE. IS THAT SO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU DO?
I GUESS NOT.


IT'S JUST WEIRD, I READ ABOUT THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS IN SCHOOL WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL -- BUT I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, REALLY.
I MEAN, I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE -- I KNOW HOW WRONG IT IS TO BE PERSECUTED JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
OH? BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE FOR CERTAIN THAT IT IS SO WRONG.
WHAT --? YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT YOU THINK IT'S RIGHT FOR THE PEOPLE OF SALEM TO BE HUNTING YOUR KIND DOWN AND KILLING THEM?
I DID NOT SAY THAT, BUT PERHAPS I DO FEEL IT IS NECESSARY.
HOW COULD THE RITUAL GENOCIDE OF A CLASS OF INDIVIDUALS, JUST BECAUSE THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE NORM --
-- BE CONSIDERED NECESSARY?
I COME FROM A TIME THAT HAS SEEN HORRIBLE ATROCITIES COMMITTED IN THE NAME OF "GENETIC CLEANSING!"
ALL I SAY, CHILD, IS THAT FOR MY PEOPLE TO SURVIVE, INDEED, TO FLOURISH, THESE TRIALS MUST CONTINUE -- AND YES, EVEN SUCCEED!


BUT THAT WOULD MEAN LETTING MANY MORE OF YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS DIE AT THE STAKE!
MY BURDEN, CHILD, IS EVEN HEAVIER THAN THAT.
HOW --?
BECAUSE, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT MY PEOPLE HAVE A HOPE OF SURVIVING WELL INTO THE TIME WHENCE YOU CAME --
-- I HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY SUBMITTING MEMBERS OF MY CLAN TO THE AUTHORITIES OF JUDGE SEWALL AND HIS CLERIC --
-- IN ORDER TO BE LABELED AND DESTROYED AS WITCHES!
THAT'S HORRIBLE -- IT'S WRONG --
-- AND I WON'T LET YOU STAND HERE IN JUDGMENT OVER WHICH OF YOUR PEOPLE GET TO LIVE AND DIE!
NOR DID I EXPECT YOU TO DO SO, CHILD...
NO, INDEED, I EXPECT YOU TO HELP ME IN THESE DIFFICULT DECISIONS!
FOR IF YOU DON'T -- I WILL MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR PROPER TIME AGAIN!
TO BE CON-TINUED


MEANWHILE, AT THE WARRIORS CRASH PAD IN MANHATTAN --
-- THE TEAM'S STRATEGIST, CHORD, AND THEIR PILOT, SPROCKET, HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR AN ASSAULT ON WHOEVER MAY HAVE KIDNAPPED THE WARRIORS --
-- WHILE TEAM MEMBER WANNABE, CARLTON LAFROYGE, KNOWN ALSO AS HINDSIGHT LAD, IS ABOUT TO GIVE THEM SOME VERY SOBERING INFORMATION...
Uhm... MISTER CHORD... MISS SPROCK -- Uhm, ER...MIZ... MA'AM --
-- I BELIEVE I MAY HAVE DISCERNED WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR FELLOW WARRIORS.
AND IF MY COMPUTATIONS ARE ACCURATE, WHICH I BELIEVE THEM MOST CERTAINLY TO BE...
...YOU WILL NOT BE NEEDING THAT ARMAMENT TO GET THEM BACK!
I HAVE MANAGED TO ISOLATE THAT ENERGY WHICH ABDUCTED THE EIGHT WARRIORS --
-- AND CROSS-REFERENCED IT BY LOCATION AND BY SIGNATURE, TO PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED RECORDS REGARDING THAT WAVELENGTH OUTPUT.
BUT THE ONLY WAY WE WOULD HAVE DATA ON THAT ENERGY SIGNATURE IS IF WE FACED IT BEFORE.
INDEED. AND FACED IT TWICE AT THAT.
THOUGH THE INFORMATION IN YOUR FILES IS VERY SPARSE.
THAT SIGNATURE -- CROSS-REFERENCED WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR'S INFO WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN --
-- IT'S THE ENERGY OF THE KA STONE!

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEW WARRIORS #48!